Central Assistance under AIBP to Rajasthan

1014. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD;
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to accord Rajasthan special status under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) due to its desert, drought conditions, hilly and tribal regions similar to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, by when and whether Rajasthan will be entitled to the same liberal norms as these States under Central loan assistance: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the State of Rajasthan has already developed about 82 percent of irrigation potential, it is not appropriate to treat Rajasthan at par with Special Category States for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

Management of Water Resources

1015. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to prevailing drought situation in the country, the water sources have dried up and the country is not in a position to meet its demand of water;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make the country drought free and the amount required therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the policy relating to management of water resources; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Due to below normal rainfall during monsoon 2002, drought situation was experienced

in part areas of 18 States. The less rainfall resulted in less storage in the reservoirs located in these areas. In some of the reservoirs, the water level has gone below minimum draw-down level and, therefor, difficulty was faced in meeting demand of water in such areas.

(b) Water being a State subject, all water resources schemes including the schemes meant for drought proofing of drought prone areas in the country, are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the respective State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. A storage capacity of 75 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Government of India is providing central loan assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to help the State Governments in their efforts to harness rain water and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by speedy completion of certain selected ongoing schemes, some of which would make drought prone areas drought proof. Proposals for additional projects are also under formulation/consideration for creation of storage capacity of 132 BCM. Besides,National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas.

(c) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal either contemplated or under consideration of the Government to change the policy relating to management of water resources.

Utilisation of Water

1016. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rain-fed and snow-fed water utilized by the animal and plant kingdom and the percentage utilized by organized agriculture;

(b) the extent of success of the water shed management in catching water in the service of society;